

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Class 1 and for all our new parents welcome to Curzon!

We hope that you have all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the exciting year ahead. **The children have had a wonderful first few days in school and are all settling in well. Our Year 1 children have been fantastic helping to settle the Year R children, showing them around the classroom.** We had a tour of the school led by Year 1 pupils, who were very excited to take on this role! All the children are having lots of fun exploring the classroom, engaging in the activities and making new friends. Reception children are making a great start coming into school. We know that for some children (and parents) this is a daunting and emotional time but please rest assured that any children who initially find this part of the day difficult, settle quickly once inside the classroom with support from the adults and pupils around them. Curzon prides itself on our three values: kindness, courage and respect. I have seen some lovely acts of kindness and lots of courage from all pupils in their first few days, well done!

This letter will give you a brief overview of how Class 1 runs and what your children will be doing this term. **If you have any questions or anything you wish to discuss with me, please feel free to approach me on the playground at the end of the day or arrange a time to pop in and see me.** It is difficult to speak to parents before school as my focus is on getting children into the classroom and settled for the day. If you need to pass on a message before school, please either email or pop into the office so they can inform me before school.

I will be teaching Class 1 Monday to Thursday and Mrs South on a Friday. Mrs South is a very experienced teacher and is looking forward to getting to know all the children. Our teaching assistants and midday supervisors, Mrs Youngman, Mr Ratcliffe and Mrs Mann are always on hand to help and support the children throughout the day.

### **Literacy**

We will be reading lots of different traditional stories this term, looking at repetitive rhymes and patterns.

The children will be:

- working on writing simple sentences, encouraging the Year 1s to do this independently
- practising their letter formation
- listening to the sounds in the words they want to write
- finding sounds on a phonics mat and words from a word bank
- putting a space between each word
- experimenting with using full stops and capital letters for their sentences
- writing captions and labels

### **Maths**

The children will be covering a lot of different areas of Maths this term through adult led activities and their continuous provision. These include:

- place value and ordering
- understanding – and + using words like plus, add, total, take away, subtract, left, equals and less and more than
- beginning to sort objects by grouping them together and counting them.
- 1 to 1 correspondence e.g. *There are two buckets and two children. Are there enough buckets for the children?*

- saying the number that is 1 or 10 more or less than a number to 20. (Year 1 place value, numbers to 50 working up to 100)
- continuing a number sequence. 1 more or 1 less
- shape

### **Phonics**

The Year 1 children from both Class 1 & 2 will work together during their daily phonics lesson to help improve their reading, spelling and writing. The spellings for the week will correspond with the sounds that your child has been learning in phonic sessions.

The Year R children will also receive a daily phonics session where they will start to learn initial letter sounds. They will not receive spelling homework until later in the year when they have learnt a larger bank of sounds.

### **Other Curriculum Areas:**

RE	Our special world
ICT	Typing and basic computer skills
Science	Materials/living things
Humanities (1 <sup>st</sup> ½ term)	Local area and Safety
Humanities (2 <sup>nd</sup> ½ term)	George Stephenson Vehicles
Art	Colours
PE	Gymnastics and Multi skills
PSHCE	Looking after ourselves and each other

### **PE**

**PE lessons will take place on Thursday afternoons.** Please ensure that your child has their correct PE kit in school for these days and that everything is labelled. The children leave their PE kits at school and bring them home at half term and end of term.

### **Reading Books**

Year 1 children should have already brought some reading books home, along with their reading record by now. Over the next few weeks, the Year R children will be bringing books home too. Some of the initial books do not contain words. They are for you and your child to share together until they are ready to start reading. **It is important that you hear them read at home (everyday if possible!) as regular support, even if it's just 5 minutes a day, has a positive impact on children's progress.** Please make a comment in your child's reading record whenever you share a book or read with them at home. Thank you for your support with home reading.

### **Year 1 Homework**

All Year 1 children will be given Maths and Spelling homework every Monday and this is to be returned by the following Monday. This year they will have spellings, a short Maths activity sent home in book bags **or** Mathematics, a short sight reading activity and Bug Books, which focus on your child's comprehension skills. **Children will have two weeks to complete Bug Books and sight reading so these will be given on a Monday and expected to be returned on the Monday 2 weeks later.** Spellings will go home in a spelling book where children **must** 'look, cover, write, check' and practise three times during the week. For extra house points, encourage your child to write some sentences with the words in! Children should spend around 10-15 minutes writing their sentences and should practise their spellings on separate occasions. **Spelling books must be returned to school every Monday for homework to be marked and for the children to complete their weekly spelling test.**

**Year R homework** will start later in the term once the children have become more confident in school routine. However, they will be coming home with Athletics passwords in the next few weeks so please do encourage them to log on and practise their maths skills.

Mathletics link: <http://uk.mathletics.com/signin/>

### **Our Class Mascot**

Our class mascot (who the children are yet to name!) is an incentive to encourage children's passion for writing and desire to do homework. This toy will come home with a different child every week to spend the weekend with your family. Your child is then expected to write and draw/photograph what they have done with the mascot during the weekend in their own special diary. It will go home on a Friday and needs to come back to school with the diary on Monday.

### **Water Bottles**

Please ensure that your child brings a named and filled water bottle into school with them each day so that they can drink regularly throughout the day. This will be sent home at the end of each day so that it can be washed and returned to school again the following morning. We request that these bottles contain water only and no other drinks. Also that they have 'flip' lids rather than screw tops.

### **Labelling**

Please ensure that all belongings (uniform, coats, lunch boxes, book bags, snack boxes, water bottles etc.) are clearly labelled with your child's name. This helps your child to recognise their name and locate their own belongings, and also enables misplaced items to be easily identified and returned.

### **Show and Tell**

This year we will not be having a set day for show and tell. **The children are welcome to bring in or share something of educational interest if they wish.** Please **do not** send your child in with a toy for show and tell as these often get lost or broken resulting in tears. A picture or model made at home is always welcome. Children do not have to bring anything in if they do not want to as we share all our news every day!

### **Stationery**

In Class 1, due to the nature of their work and the speed in which they use resources, children share stationery. This means that as a class, rather than pencil cases, we really appreciate donations from parents, for example extra glue sticks, whiteboard pens or rubbers so if you happen to see any going cheap in the supermarkets or have any spare at home, please send them in with your child at any point throughout the year. Thank you for all your super donations so far.

### **Helpers needed please**

If there are any parents who have any spare time to come in and hear children read or support in lessons I would greatly appreciate any offers. Please just let me know if you are available, anything from 15 minutes to an hour to a whole afternoon will be of great help!

I look forward to seeing you at our Meet the Teacher evening -Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.

Mrs Thomson (Class1 teacher) and the Class 1 team